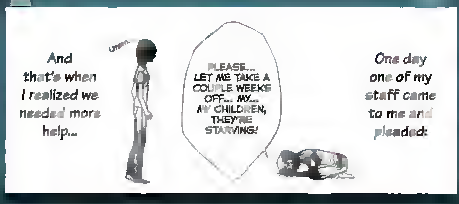

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I Won't Forget this LOVE

by Mitsuya Omi

Chapter 03
"The Flower That Blooms In You"

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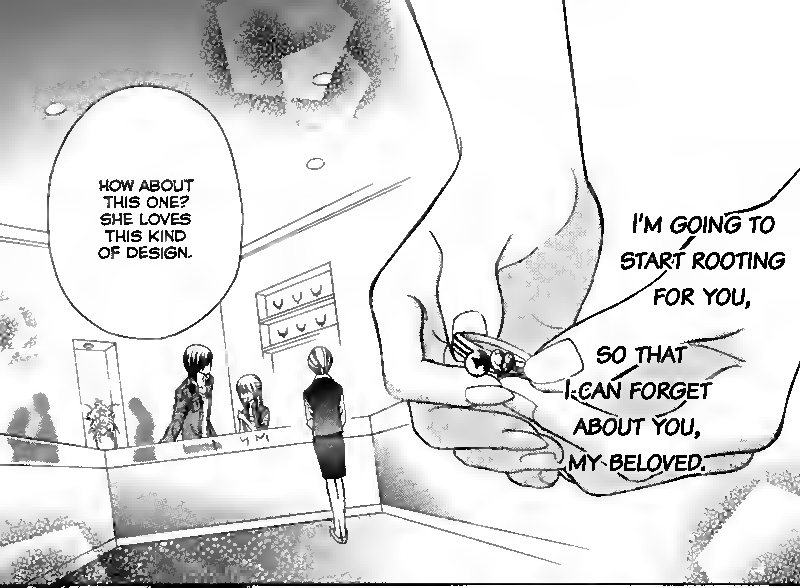

The Flower That Blooms In You

MITSUYA OMI

The Flower That Blooms In You
MITSUYA OMI

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"I'LL BE HAPPY!"
We're twins. We have the same face and the same voice,
but if my sister is the light, I'm more like the shadow.
Of course, the chosen one was...
"...GRA... TULATION..."
Hap
Wed

MAKE MINA HAPPY.
PLEASE CHERISH HER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
"CONGRATULATIONS, MINA..."
...I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU, KOUTA
YUP.
I WANT TO MAKE HER THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.

FOR THAT SAKE, I'VE GOT TO GET A DOCTOR'S LICENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I WANT TO DO MY BEST SO THAT I CAN PROTECT THEM.
I WANT TO PROTECT MINA... AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE...
YOU'RE SO BRIGHT.
SO VERY BRIGHT.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME A WONDERFUL HUSBAND AND A GREAT DOCTOR, KOUTA.
IF IT'S YOU,
YOUR LIGHT ALWAYS DAZZLES ME.

SFX. <SLIPS>
ズル…
I CAN SEVER ALL MY FEELINGS FOR HIM.
THANK YOU.
I CAN GUARANTEE THAT.
I'LL BE FINE.
SFX. <SHOCKED>

TSU-
KINA!

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SFX: ああああああ

SFX. <NOISY>
HEY! DON'T MOVE HIM. DON'T TOUCH HIM!
IS THE AMBULANCE STILL NOT HERE YET?!
KOUTA ...
...TA...
AH!
SFX. <DASH>
KOUTA!
KOUTA!!!

SFX: <RUN>
NOO OOO!
A"
A"
A"
TSU-KINA!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? IS KOUTA ALL RIGHT?!
TSUKINA!
RIGHT NOW... HE'S RESTING... THEY SAY HE BROKE A COUPLE OF BONES HERE AND THERE...
BUT THEY SAID... THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE...
I SEE... THANK GOOD—
SFX: <PHEW>
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THANK GOODNESS ...!
IF... BY SOME CHANCE, HE'D DIED...
Aha- haha
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO!
SFX. <FALLS DOWN>
...
WHAT'S WRONG, TSUKINA? DO YOUR WOUNDS HURT?
...EYES.
I'M SORRY, MINA. IT'S MY FAULT...!

BECAUSE OF ME, KOUTA...
NO!
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT CAN'T BE HELPED. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT AFTER ALL.
...THE DOCTOR SAID THAT... HE CAN'T SEE ANYMORE.
KOUTA'S EYES CAN'T SEE ANYMORE!

HE WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN...!
...NO WAY...
THAT MUST BE A LIE...
THEN, WHAT ABOUT OUR WEDDING...?
WHAT ABOUT ...
HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A DOCTOR ..?
"I WANT TO DO MY BEST SO THAT I CAN PROTECT THEM."

"I WANT TO PROTECT MINA,"
"AND A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE."
The fragments from the ground, due to the fallen objects, scratched the corneas of his eyes.
...KOUTA... IT'S ME... TSUKINA...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY...?

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SFX: <DASH>
MINA!
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY GOING BACK AFTER HAVING COME ALL THE WAY HERE?!
GO TO SEE—
I CAN'T!
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU RETURN THIS TO HIM FOR ME?
I CAN'T SEE HIM AFTER ALL...!

I DON'T...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE HATES ME, I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE...
I KNOW THAT THIS IS CRUEL AND COWARDLY OF ME.
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM...!
うぁ～
CRITICIZE ME...
CRITICIZE ME, TSUKINA!
Why didn't it hit me?
SFX: <WAHHHH>

SFX. KNOCK!
コンコン
.....
コンコン
SFX. CHATTLE
カラ
KOU—
SFX. <ZZZ>
KOUTA...
I'M SORRY...

MINA...?
I'M SORR—
...NA...
IS THAT YOU, MINA...?
THAT MUST BE IT. YOU'RE MINA.
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU SO MUCH.
AH...

MINA.
YOU'RE THERE, AREN'T YOU? MINA?

I've taken...
so many things away from him.
IF IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE THIS... I WISH THAT I HAD DIED...
THAT DAY.
IS IT A DREAM AGAIN...?

...I'M... RIGHT HERE...
I'M HERE!
IT'S NOT A DREAM...!
don't cry,
and don't say that you wish you had died.
So, please,
HOW PATHE-TIC.
I STILL CAN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT NOW I'M IN A WORLD WITHOUT LIGHT.
I'M FRIGHT-ENED OF THE DARK, AND I SHIVER IN IT.
ARE YOU THERE, MINA...?

I'M TOO WEAK.
I HAD NO IDEA I WAS THIS WEAK...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY-THING.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
Forever I'll...
I'M SCARED, MINA.

stay by your side.
SFX. <SNIP> <SNIP>
シャキ
シャキ
I'll just lie to him this once.

your eyes.
I'll become...
KOUTA!
CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL!
I DON'T WANT TO GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. I DON'T WANT TO SUFFER ANY MORE THAN THIS.
BUT...
THERE ARE SO MANY COLORS AND THINGS OUTSIDE
I NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT WORLD.
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I WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO FIND THESE SHOES FOR YOU, KOUTA. THEY SEEM TO LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
I SEE... WHAT A PITY.
SFX: <RUSTLE>
LET'S GO.
SFX: <AAHH>

Kyahaha!
wait a moment!
over here!
SFX: CRUNCH
SFX: CRUNCH
WAHO
SFX: CRUNCH

SFX: <TAILED> <WAAAA>
I'm falling...
into the darkness...
KOUTA!
AH...
SFX: <STAGGER>
What just happened?
Just now, something...
WOOF WOOF
SFX: <SCREECH>

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOUR HAND!

HEY KOUTA, DOESN'T THE WIND FEEL GOOD?
A LOT OF BIRDS ARE FLYING IN THE SKY.
MANY CLOUDS ARE DRIFTING TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN.
AND THERE ARE ALREADY FIVE STARS SHINING.
AND THE SKY...
IT'S A COMBINATION OF PINK, ORANGE, AND DEEP BLUE
THE SKY IS RE-FLECTED ONTO THE RIVER WATER'S SURFACE,
AND THE TOWN, THE PEOPLE...
SFX. <SQUEEZE>

ARE GRADUALLY SHROUDED IN DARKNESS...
I CAN SEE IT.

I CAN SEE WHEN I'M WITH YOU, MINA.
I CAN SEE THE LIGHT AND THE COLORS.
EVERYTHING IS SO VIVID...
Ever since that day, little by little,
He's started to smile more.
EH..?
BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
LIKE I SAID, EVEN THOUGH IT'S VERY WEAK, I CAN STILL FEEL THE LIGHT.
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT MY EYES MIGHT BE SAVED IF I HAVE A CORNEA TRANSPLANT.

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..WHAT'S THIS..?
カサ…
Ah
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M SURE OF IT...

SFX: <RUSTLE>

ALL BY YOURSELF? IN TWO DAYS?
YUP.
DID YOU FOLD ALL OF THESE?
YUP, YUP.
I FELT AS IF MY FINGER-PRINTS WOULD BE RUBBED OFF FROM FOLDING SO MUCH.
Ahaha

THIS IS A STRING OF A THOUSAND PAPER CRANES.
WHEN I CLEANED UP MY ROOM THE OTHER DAY, I FOUND SOME ORIGAMI PAPER. BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D ALREADY GOTTEN TOO CAUGHT UP IN FOLDING PAPER CRANES
EH...?

DO YOU WANT TO FOLD SOMETHING, TOO, KOUTA?
MAYBE IT'S THANKS TO THIS.
His light...
I BROUGHT ALONG THE LEFTOVER PAPER!

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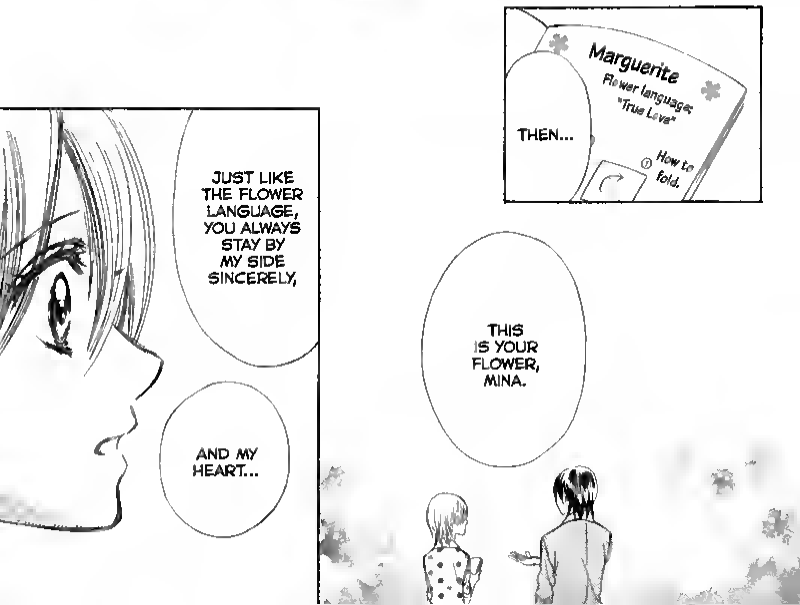

IS ALSO LIKE THE FLOWER LANGUAGE FOR THIS FLOWER...
"True love."
But I'm not the real one.
I'm just the fake Mina.

WHAT'S WRONG? SOMEHOW, YOU DON'T SEEM CHEERFUL TODAY.
I'M JUST THINKING... THAT EVER SINCE THEN, TSUKINA HASN'T COME TO SEE ME, EVEN ONCE,
EVEN THOUGH YOU COME TO SEE ME EVERY DAY, MINA.
What does he think...!!
SFX: CHIRORI
about the real me?
WHAT DO YOU... THINK ABOUT TSUKINA?
IF YOU HADN'T COVERED FOR HER THAT DAY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HURT LIKE THIS.
RIGHT NOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HER, THE ONE WHO TOOK THE LIGHT FROM YOU?

...IT'S NOT HER FAULT.
THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT. IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HELPED.
NO ONE WAS AT FAULT.
I KNOW THAT... IN MY MIND...
SFX. <AAAAA>
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT, I STILL CAN'T FORGIVE HER...!

TODAY, THE HOSPITAL TOLD ME THAT IT'S HARD TO FIND A CORNEA DONOR.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO STAY THIS WAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
IF IT COMES TO THAT, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I'LL FOREVER HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST TSUKINA.
EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE SHE'S ALSO SUFFERING RIGHT NOW...
I CAN'T STOP THIS FEELING OF HATRED...!

NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'M SORRY... SHE'S YOUR LITTLE SISTER, YET I...
IT'S FINE.
I'm ashamed of myself for getting my hopes up, even just a little bit.
I thought that maybe, just maybe, he'd already forgiven me.
but that's only because the one he's smiling at is Mina.
If it was me, the real Tsukina, he would never smile at me again.

But...
KOUTA!
THERE WAS A PHONE CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL!
THEY SAID THAT THEY FOUND A DONOR FOR YOU!
SFX: KCLENCH
HURRY UP! CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, KOUTA.

TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY.
LET'S GET MARRIED.
AFTER THE SURGERY IS OVER,
AND MY EYESIGHT HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, LET'S GET MARRIED FOR SURE THIS TIME.

THIS TIME, I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, MINA.
WELL THEN, I'M GOING NOW.
SFX. <CLOSE>
パタン

There's only one more thing...
Operating
that I can do.

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I DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO BE WITH HIM ANYMORE!
PLEASE, MINA!
YOU'VE BEEN SUPPORTING HIM ALL THIS TIME... HOW CAN I...
IT HAS TO BE YOU!
IT HAS TO BE YOU, MINA...
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU.
PLEASE GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE...!
THINK OF IT AS SAVING ME, AND SAVING KOUTA...
PLEASE... PLEASE...!

Let my lie be completed.
I CAN SEE...!

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I WANT TO GET MARRIED TO MINA-SAN, AND PROTECT HER FOR REAL THIS TIME.
SO YOU'VE ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MIND.
YES.
I SEE. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU TWO DECIDED ON AFTER HAVING OVERCOME SUCH A TOUGH PERIOD, WE WILL GIVE YOU OUR BLESSINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS.
JUST LIKE—
HOW SHE'S BEEN SUPPORTING ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I WILL ALSO DO MY VERY BEST STUDYING TO GET A DOCTOR'S LICENSE.

SFX. <CLICK>
AH...
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW ..!
I'M REALLY SORRY... I...
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED ... BUT I CAN BE WITH MINA NOW, SO...
TO BE HONEST, THERE WERE DAYS WHEN I HATED THE FACT THAT I COVERED FOR YOU,
BUT NOW, I NO LONGER FEEL THAT WAY...

I WANT TO GET ALONG WITH YOU, SINCE YOU'LL BE MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
CAN I...?
SO, FROM NOW ON,
SFX. <NOD>
.....
THANK YOU.

U...
U...
Why can't I throw it away?

AH...
AH...
I can't give up like before anymore.
U...
I've got to pull myself together.
On this very day,
my life will be complete...
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, MINA!

SFX. <SQUEEZE>
SFX. <CLUNCH>
TAKE CARE OF MINA.
.. PLEASE,
DO YOUR BEST.
I'M ALSO CERTAIN THAT YOUR DREAM WILL COME TRUE, KOUTA.

KOUTA! LOOK AT THIS!
THESE ARE THE FLOWERS FOR THE FLOWER SHOWER!
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THESE...?
DO YOU KNOW?
THESE ARE MARGUERITES. COME ON, WE USED TO MAKE ORIGAMI...
ORIGAMI?
EH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I HAVEN'T TOUCHED A SINGLE PIECE OF ORIGAMI PAPER FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS NOW.
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S YOUR SPECIALTY, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE NOT.
TSUKINA IS THE ONE WHO'S GOOD AT IT.
HALF A YEAR AGO,
SHE'S REALLY GOOD WITH HER HANDS, SO—
DIDN'T WE FOLD A LOT OF ORIGAMI?
HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN ABOUT THAT?
AH..

THE THOUSAND CRANES... WERE FOLDED BY YOU.
ALL BY YOURSELF, IN JUST TWO DAYS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I REMEMBER IT NOW...
WE FOLDED A LOT, DIDN'T WE?
Uhm
WE FOLDED A THOUSAND CRANES TOGETHER, RIGHT?
IT'S TIME FOR THE CEREMONY.
YOU TRIED YOUR HARDEST TO FOLD THEM FOR ME..

SFX. CHATTERO

THE FLOWER LANGUAGE OF MARGUERITE.
YOU BECAME MY EYES.
YOU SHONE LIGHT ONTO MY DARKNESS OF DESPAIR.

YOU WERE MY LIGHT, MINA.

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I WILL DO WHAT THE FLOWER LANGUAGE OF THAT FLOWER SUGGESTS.
I WANT YOU TO LET ME REPAY YOU FOR IT.
THAT'S WHY, THIS TIME,
Well then.
THERE'S NO WAY... I'D KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW...
The bridegroom is coming.

I'M A COWARD...
THE ONLY THING I COULD DO WAS TO AVERT MY EYES AWAY FROM YOUR SUFFERING.
KOUTA...
SFX. <WAHHHH>
"IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, KOUTA."
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING."
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SFX: <creak>
MOM...
I'M SORRY... I'M GOING OUT FOR A LITTLE BIT...
EH?
THEN,
"FOREVER I'LL..."
THE "MINA" FROM THOSE DAYS WAS...

"STAY BY YOUR SIDE."

I'M SORRY, MINA.
I CAN'T BECOME ONE WITH YOU.
I'M SORR—
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO GET MARRIED TO YOU, KOUTA...!
TELL ME THE MEANING OF MARGUERITE.
IN THE END,
THE MEANING...
THAT I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND..

IT'S TRUE LOVE.
I SEE...
TRUE LOVE...
I SEE...

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HA...
HAHA-HAHA.
I'M SO USELESS...
!!
SFX: FLUTTER
WILL I BE ABLE TO GIVE UP—
WHEN...
SFX: WHOOSH

SFX: <SPLASH>
WAIT!
AH...!
SFX: <SPLASH>
SFX: <SPLASH>
SFX: <SPLASH>
SFX: <SPLASH>
SFX: <HUFF> <HUFF>
THANK GOOD—
SFX: <SPLASH>

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, IT'S NO GOOD...
A FAKE ONE IS NO GOOD...!
I wanted to be reflected as the real one...
in your eyes!

WHERE DID SO MANY COME FROM?
...REAL MARGUE-RITES...?

WHY...?
BECAUSE REAL FLOWERS SUIT YOU BETTER.

TSUKINA.
Why?
I'm...
Why?
Why?

...not Mina...
I'M TSUKINA, NOT MINA—
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON, KOUTA...!
I DON'T.

BUT YOU'RE MY REAL ONE.
IN THE END, I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING,
EVEN AFTER MY EYES HAD BEEN CURED.
I COULDN'T SEE ANY OF THE THINGS THAT ARE SO DEAR TO ME.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ME.
SO CLEARLY.
NOW, I CAN SEE YOU...

I can see you, my beloved!

By your side,

are real flowers that won't ever fade.

The flowers that bloomed in the light...

these flowers will bloom forever.

THE END

(I WON'T FORGET THIS LOVE - VOLUME 01 CHAPTER 003 - END)

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ありがとうございました!!

いろんな方に支えられ そして迷惑をかけつつ
描き上げたこの作品は 私の中で とても思い出
深いものとなってくれました。
たくさんの花をヒーヒー言いながら描いたのも
今となっては いい思い出……◎
もっといい漫画を描いて 皆様とお会い出来ると
嬉しいです♥

KC「涙100万粒のリアル・ライフ」, KC「恋バナ 赤」
(原作/Yoshi)でミツヤオミの作品が読めます♡

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